

# PRESS RELEASE

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Foreign Language Academy Becomes the Region's First and Only Authorized IB Primary Years Programme School

*Kansas City Public Schools hosting celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at FLA*

**Kansas City, November 15, 2019:** The pathway for students to earn the most prestigious high school diploma in the nation just got a lot more seamless in Kansas City.

Kansas City Public Schools' Foreign Language Academy (FLA) recently earned the distinction of becoming the first and only authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme school in the region and only the fourth in the entire state of Missouri.

KCPS leaders, staff and families will be celebrating this unique achievement during an event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at FLA, which is located at 3450 Warwick Blvd. in Kansas City, Mo. All members of the public and news media are invited and encouraged to attend.

FLA serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade who take foreign language immersion classes taught in either Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. The school empowers students to be independent, lifelong learners who take the initiative to solve local and global problems.

The International Baccalaureate organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.

Schools must complete a rigorous and multi-year process to become authorized IB programs. This includes aligning the school's curriculum and professional development with IB standards. The Primary Years Programme focuses on students ages three to 12. FLA is already taking steps to earn authorization as an IB Middle Years Programme, which is for students ages 11 to 16.

Lincoln College Preparatory Academy has been an IB World School for several years. Lincoln Prep students who complete the program earn a prestigious IB diploma. By earning authorization as an IB Primary Years Programme school, FLA students will now have the opportunity to become fully prepared to thrive in the challenging IB program at Lincoln Prep.

The Nov. 19 celebration at FLA will feature remarks by Principal Joell Ramsdell, KCPS Superintendent Mark Bedell and School Board Chair Pattie Mansur, plus student performances by the school's Mexican Folk Dance troupe, Mandarin Chinese classes and dance and drill team. There will be complimentary light appetizers and soft drinks.

Visit [www.kcpublicschools.org/foreignlanguage](http://www.kcpublicschools.org/foreignlanguage) to learn more about FLA. Visit [enrollkc.org](http://enrollkc.org) to learn how to enroll a child in any of the excellent public school options in KCPS.

